Growing Death Rate of Children in the Country

183. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the UNICEF Report-1987, the number of children who died in India during the past two years was much more than in most of the African nations;

(b) if so, what is the state of health of children in India in the age group of 0—7;

(c) what is the number of children who died in India in 1987; and

(d) what preventive methods as suggested by WHO have been taken to check growing death rate of children in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) According to "The State of the World's Children 1987" published by UNICEF, under-5 child mortality rate in India is more than some of the African countries and India ranks 40th amongst the list of 130 countries.

(c) The estimate of children died in India in 1987 is not available. The latest available number of estimated deaths amongst children in the country in age group 0-4 years as obtained from SRS Registrar General of India for the year 1984 is 37.4 lakhs.

(d) The steps taken by Government of India to reduce child mortality include improvement of health infrastructure, training of health manpower, health education, adoption of "risk approach", universal immunisation of children, oral rehydration therapy in diarrhoeal diseases, promotion of breast feeding and proper weaning practices, prophylaxis against nutritional anaemia and supplementary nutrition under I.C.D.S. Scheme.

Demand for Uniform National Pay Scales etc. for AISTF

184. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Secondary School Teachers' Association (AISTF) has submitted a memorandum demanding uniform national pay scales and service conditions; if so, the action taken thereon; and

(b) whether Government propose to bring them at par with University Teachers in the matter of service conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN *THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION* AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) The All India Secondary Teachers' Federation had submitted a memorandum dated 1-12-1987 addressed to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha containing the demands stated in the Question. The Lok Sabha Secretariat asked the Department of Education to furnish factual comments on the Memorandum for the consideration of the Committee on Petitions of the Lak Sabha. The comments have been sent.

(b) No, Sir.

Collection of Capitation Fees by Educational Institutions

185. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have advised the State Governments and Union Territories to prevent collecting capitation fees by educational institutions;

(b) whether Government have taken note of abnormal increase of tuition fee by schools and colleges; and